WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A printing apparatus which includes a printer body having a setting surface on which a printing surface of a printing medium is set horizontally, a carriage beam which is attached to the printer body and extends in the direction along the setting surface, and a carriage provided so as to be movable in the beam lengthwise direction with respect to the carriage beam, and further includes an ink head equipped with a nozzle for discharging ink provided in the carriage, comprising:

a carriage supporting means which supports the carriage onto the carriage beam in a manner enabling it to move up and down,

an ink receiving part which receives ink that is discharged from the ink head, and

a receiving part supporting means which supports the ink receiving part on the carriage in a manner enabling it to move to an ink receiving part below the ink head and a withdrawing position separated from the ink head.

2. The printing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the receiving part supporting means comprises a holder to which the ink receiving part is attached, a receiving part moving motor, and a link mechanism which links a drive shaft of the receiving part moving motor and the holder to each other and moves the holder according to the rotational driving of the receiving part moving motor so that the ink receiving part can move between the ink receiving position and the withdrawn position.

3. The printing apparatus according to Claim 1 or 2, further

comprising a control means which drives the carriage supporting

means to lower the carriage to a position enabling the ink head

to carry out printing and drives the receiving part supporting

means so that the ink receiving part is positioned at the

5   withdrawn position when printing by the ink head is carried out,

and drives the carriage supporting means to raise the carriage

and drives the receiving part supporting means so that the ink

receiving part is positioned at the ink receiving position to

carry out ink flushing when printing by the ink head is not

10   carried out.